United Nations E/CN.5/2004/L.5

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
11 February 2004

Original: English

Commission for Social Development
Forty-second session
4-13 February 2004
Agenda item 3 (b) (ii)
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups: equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities

Chile,* Guatemala, Mexico, New Zealand,* Nicaragua* and Romania: draft resolution

The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"Comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities

"*The Economic and Social Council,*

"*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 56/168 of 19 December 2001, by which the Assembly established an Ad Hoc Committee, open to the participation of all Member States and observers to the United Nations, to consider proposals for a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, based on the holistic approach in the work carried out in the fields of social development, human rights and non-discrimination and taking into account the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission for Social Development,

"*Recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/12 of 21 July 2003 on a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities,

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

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"*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 58/246 of 23 December 2003, by which the Assembly decided that the Ad Hoc Committee will start the negotiations on a draft convention at its third session,

"*Welcoming* the important contributions made so far to the Ad Hoc Committee by all stakeholders,

"*Welcoming also* the progress made in the Working Group established by the Ad Hoc Committee in preparing a draft text which would be the basis for negotiations on a draft convention in the Ad Hoc Committee, taking into account all contributions,

"*Encouraging* Member States and observers to participate actively in the Ad Hoc Committee in order to present to the General Assembly, as a matter of priority, a draft text of a convention,

"*Reaffirming* the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed their full enjoyment without discrimination,

"*Taking note with satisfaction* of the positive steps taken by Governments in order to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities,

"*Encouraged* by the increased support of the international community for the promotion and protection of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities under a comprehensive and integral approach,

"1. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to continue to contribute to the process of negotiation of a draft international convention by, inter alia, providing its views regarding the social development perspective, bearing in mind the experience in the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities[1] and the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;[2]

"2. *Welcomes* the contributions of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission to the process of negotiation of a draft convention and requests the Special Rapporteur further to contribute and participate in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, bearing in mind the experience in the monitoring of the Standard Rules and in collaboration with the Secretariat by, inter alia, providing her views on the elements to be considered in the convention and promoting awareness about the process among Governments and civil society;

"3. *Requests* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, through its Division for Social Policy and Development, to continue to support the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur and other relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, through, inter alia, the organization of experts meetings and the provision of information on issues related to the international convention, including national and international experiences and norms and standards on disabilities, as appropriate;

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[1] General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

[2] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation I (IV).

"4. *Underlines* the importance of strengthening the cooperation and coordination between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in order jointly to support the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;

"5. *Invites* bodies, organs and entities of the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes, particularly those working in the fields of social and economic development and human rights, within their respective mandates, to continue to provide suggestions about elements for a convention;

"6. *Also invites* non-governmental organizations, national disability and human rights institutions and independent experts with an interest in the matter to continue to make available to the Ad Hoc Committee suggestions and possible elements to be included in proposals for a convention;

"7. *Encourages* the relevant bodies of the United Nations to continue to promote and support the active participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in the process of elaboration of an international convention in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 56/510 of 23 July 2002 and 57/229 of 18 December 2002, and requests the Secretary-General to disseminate widely to non-governmental organizations all available information on accreditation procedures, modalities and supportive measures for their participation in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;

"8. *Invites* Governments, civil society and the private sector to contribute to the voluntary fund established by the General Assembly to support the participation of non-governmental organizations and experts from developing countries, in particular from the least developed countries, in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;

"9. *Stresses* the need for additional efforts to ensure accessibility with reasonable accommodation regarding facilities and documentation at the United Nations for all persons with disabilities in accordance with General Assembly decision 56/474 of 23 July 2002;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur to report to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution."